

Upazila roundup

COMILLA

Training course on coop law

May 12: A two-week-long training course on Co-operative Law and Management concluded here recently, reports UNB.

Twenty-eight Assistant Registrars (Special Audit Cell) from 28 districts participated in the training which was held at the Bangladesh Co-operative College at Kotbari.

Al-haj Mohd Azizul Haq Bhuiyan and Mohd Banaul Islam, Registrar and Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies were the chief and special guests in the function. The concluding session was rounded off with a cultural function.

Shafiqur Rahman Bhuiyan (35) of Nabiabad village in Chandina upazila of the district allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree.

According to the family sources, Shafiq had been suffering from chronic stomach ailment for the last few years. His body was sent to morgue for autopsy and case of unnatural death has been filed in this connection.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Tk 25 lakh property gutted in 4 months

From Our Correspondent

May 12: Five persons including three children and property worth Taka 25 lakh gutted in fire incidents in different areas of the district during the last four months.

The Fire Service personnel could not reach to most of the spots for bad communications and late informations.

According to official sources, they got informations of fire incidents from Dhar Char but could not reach there for bad communication.

The Fire Service Station at district headquarters can not cover the upazilas of the district. It is informed. Two more fire stations at Rahanpur and Shilganj are needed to control the fire effectively.

The Godagar Fire Service Station which was built two years back is yet to start operation.

TANGAIL

Two killed in road mishap

May 12: Two persons, a rickshawpuller and a woman passenger were killed and a boy was seriously injured on Saturday in a road accident near Karatia on Dhaka-Tangail Highway, reports BSS.

The accident occurred when a minibus bound for Dhaka from Tangail ran over the rickshaw. The rickshawpuller, Golam Mustafa and the passenger Shibu Dasht died on the spot. Her son Subal sustained serious injury. He was admitted to Tangail Sadar Hospital.

The driver manage to escape with the bus. A case was registered with Tangail thana in this connection.

Five students of Sadat University College were injured in a clash with rival groups on Sunday.

One Abdus Salam was admitted to Tangail Sadar Hospital with head injury. Others were treated locally.

The clash occurred while the rival groups raised scathing slogans against each other in a campus procession.

BRAHMANBARIA

Two youngmen nabbed for teasing girl

May 12: Police arrested two youngmen for teasing an SSC female candidate at Annada Government High School Centre Monday, reports UNB.

Liton Das a Bagchagan and Mansur Ahmed of Ranibazar were nabbed while teasing a girl student of Anandamoye Girls High School.

A case has been registered with Brahmanbaria police in this connection.

A man was awarded life imprisonment for killing his wife with a fine of Taka 2,000 in default, to suffer RI for one year more, court sources said here today.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that on January 5, 1991, Rajendra Biswas of Raja Bari village in sadar upazila found his baby crying for breast feeding. He asked his wife to feed the hungry baby but his wife turned down the request saying she was busy with household works. At this Biswas got furious and hit her with a ramdao killing her on the spot.

A case was lodged and police later submitted charge sheet against him.

The District and Sessions Judge, Nazmun Ara Sultana after examining the records and witnesses delivered the judgement recently.

FARIDPUR

Foreigner, 2 others held with arms

May 12: Police arrested three people including a foreigner national with arms from a Dhaka bound bus from Khulna on Friday, reports UNB.

They identified themselves as Khakchi Lion (26), a Myanmar national, Nazrul Islam (24) of Boalmari upazila and Strajul Islam Biplob (25) of Nalitola, Dhaka. They were held at Maizkandi of Madhukhali upazila.

Police said an India made revolver was recovered from their possession.

Superintendent of Police confirmed the arrest but declined to give details in the interest of further investigation.

SYLHET

Notorious criminal arrested

From Our Correspondent

May 12: A notorious criminal was arrested by the police of Beanbazar upazila under Sylhet recently.

The arrested person had been absconding for long, said a police source.

The people of different villages brought out a procession at Charkhai Bazar to express their rejoice at the arrest of the notorious criminal.

According to the source, on the night of incident, a police party from Beanbazar Police Station went to Charkhai Bazar and managed to arrest him alongwith a foreign dagger.

A number of cases had been lying pending against him.

These includes, sensational Alauddin murder, case, decoity robbery, and others. A gang of criminals led by him created a reign of terror in the area.

KURIGRAM

Sunflower cultivation

From Our Correspondent

May 12: There is a bright prospect for sunflower cultivation in 16 districts of northern region of the country.

Due to lack of proper initiative it can not be grown abundantly.

Sunflower seeds may widely be used as oil seeds in the wake of mustard seeds crisis.

It is being felt that proper initiative by the Agricultural Department and assistance to the cultivators may encourage them in sunflower farming.

A hearty reception was accorded to Professor Shyama Prasad Roy, the new Principal of Kurigram Govt College, by the first year students of the college.

In this connection a discussion meeting was arranged at the hall room of the college which was chaired by Associate Professor SK Abu Bakar Siddique.

Among others, Abdur Rahim Shamim, Abdur Wahab Mondol, Harunur Rashid, Prof. Mostafa Bin Hossain Khondokar, Prof. Nizam Uddin, Prof. SM Nuran Nabi took part in the discussion. It was rounded off with a musical soiree.

GAIBANDHA

Highway dacoity

From Our Correspondent

May 12: A highway dacoity was committed at Shakoa Bridge on Gaibandha Palashbari road recently.

According to police on the night of incident at about 9 p.m. a gang of highway dacoits stopped a passenger bus, Dhaka Metro Cha-8953 and looted away cash and goods worth about Taka 10,000 after placing a tree on the baily bridge.

The miscreants stopped another bus Bogra Ba 6742 and robbed of Taka 5,000. The miscreants beat the passenger of bus.

It may be mentioned here that the said location has now become a den of highway dacoits. They have been committing dacoity at the same point since long.

KUSHIA

Plan to develop haors

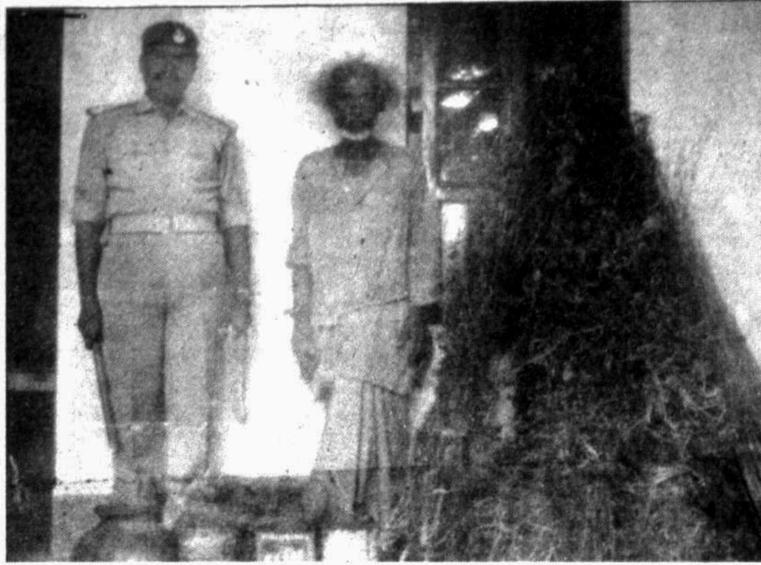
May 12: The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestocks has taken up a project to develop 30 haors in five northern districts, reports UNB.

The project covering an area of 2160 hectares envisages production of 2000 tons of fish every year worth about Taka 6.5 crore.

The IFAD and DANIDA are extending financial and technical assistance for a scientific fish culture.

It may be mentioned that the district has 78 water bodies which are leased out every year.

Police arrested a person from Kalidaha village under Mirpur upazila recently.



KISHOREGANJ: Police seized about four kg of ganja and 110 ganja plants from the house of one Mofiz Ali in village Dakhin Jafrabad under Karimganj Upazila recently. Police also arrested Mofiz in this connection. —Star photo.

Child mortality rate alarming in N-dists Malnutrition causes diseases

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, May 12: At least eight lakh children in 16 northern districts of the country have been suffering from diseases due to malnutrition and about four lakh children died of various diseases in the past few years.

A survey conducted by a reputed organisation shows that child mortality rate is increasing day by day in northern districts due to malnutrition and absence of proper treatment.

The economic condition of

is also greatly responsible for the malnutrition of the children. They are not aware of the vitality of the locally available edible herbs and vegetables. The rural parent's ignorance of health care and sanitation is also responsible for the malnutrition of the children.

The change in climatic condition of the region is also not less responsible for the deterioration of the health of the children of the area. The peo-

ple of the districts has been seriously affected by the continuous flood, cyclone, drought and excessive rain. The people especially the rural people find it difficult to arrange their daily food. As a result, they are unable to feed the children requisite diet, and take health care.

The ignorance of the parent

ple of the region feel excessive heat during summer and biting cold in winter season.

The deficiency of iodine has been found in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Bogra and Jaipurhat districts causing goitre disease in the area. At least 60 per cent people in Greater Rangpur have been suffering

from goitre. The patients are mostly women. It is observed. It can be mentioned here that the Health Department in collaboration with the World Health Organisation conducted a survey in 1981-82 in 417 upazilas where a total of 21,46,088 people was covered. It was revealed from the survey that 11.5 million people suffer from goitre. The WHO identified the area as iodine deficiency area where 10 per cent people suffer from goitre. The organisation suggested for a plan to save the huge number of people from iodine deficiency disorder.

The survey also shows that 21 per cent people of Rangpur, 12 per cent people of Thakurgaon and seven per cent people of Kurigram have been suffering from leprosy.

Out of the total number of leprosy patients of the country, 50 per cent are in northern districts. The increase in leprosy patients is alarming in Greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

Malnutrition is identified as the main reason for the outbreak of diseases in the region. The number of cancer and heart patients is also increasing in the Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.

Drought situation has deteriorated further in the district as the hot spell continues and the rainfall is still awaited.

Farmers said a vast tract of land remained fallow for want of such expected rainfall.



A goitre patient. —Star photo

Cottage industry needs patronisation

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, May 12: Cottage industry is on the verge of extinction in the district due to absence of proper patronisation.

A large number of workers mostly rural poor women who are engaged in the sector have become unemployed.

The rural women used to make fancy articles from babboo, jute fibres and skins and these products had demand in the markets both in the country and abroad.

Due to shortage of fund and proper marketing facilities, the industry is facing setback.

The elderly people and rural women after their home work can engage themselves in making handicrafts. But for fund crisis they are unable to buy raw materials. The income from this source can give a considerable economic support to their families.

They can make traditional products like rope, dolls, Chikas, cloths and nakshi kantha which have demand in markets at home and abroad.

The country can also earn a considerable amount of foreign exchange through export of these goods.

Different organisations like union parishads, mahila organ-

isations and NGO's can play a vital role in training up the rural women and encourage them through funding, social workers expressed.

It can be mentioned here that hundreds of destitute men and woman can be engaged in this sector.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take steps to patronise the industry which will help rehabilitation of destitutes.

Mobile eye camps

Seven mobile eye camps were held in different parts of the district during the last three months.

A total of 621 cataract patients were operated upon and 6,365 others were given outdoor treatment at these mobile camps.

Jointly organised by Chandpur Rotary Club and Mazharul Huq BNSB Eye Hospital, the camps were financed by Rotary Club of Australia.

The operations were done free of cost and the patients were provided with necessary spectacles and medicines, the sources said.

A team of the Mazharul Huq BNSB Eye Hospital led by Chief Surgeon Dr Sheikh Md Anwar

Hossain, conducted the operations.

The eye camps were held at Kalyanpur Health Centre in Sadar, J B Pilot High School in Matlab, Malerhat Juba Sangha High School in Haimchar, Rampur Health Centre in Hajiganj upazilas of the district while three other eye camps were held at Bithgar High School in Nabiganj upazila of Brahmanbaria, Chandragonj High School in Maljhee Court of Noakhali and Shakhor Government Primary School in Luxmipur districts, the sources added.

Meanwhile Chandpur Rotary Club installed five tubewells and distributed 10 low cost sanitary latrines among the poor people of rural areas of the district.

Workers and employees of the Rahman Jute Mills here called for a half-day hartal in the town demanding immediate reopening of the factory.

The management declared the milla laid-off on May 2 in 1988 leaving about 5,000 workers jobless.

Sadhanar Sramik Karmachari Parishad of the mills gave the call for shutdown in the district town.



SYLHET: Participants at a workshop on family planning held here recently. —Star photo

Notes from Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

May 12: Absence of a bus terminal at Puthia Upazila causes much inconveniences to the passengers.

Everyday hundreds of buses ply via Puthia to Natore, Bogra, Pabna, Rangpur, Dhaka and other routes. Passengers particularly women and children suffer much under the open sky in rains and heat of the sun for hours together to avail the bus.

The absence of latrines and urinals also cause immense sufferings to the passengers. The miseries of women passengers know no bounds.

Indiscriminate slaughtering of animals

Indiscriminate slaughtering animals at different places of the Rajshahi City and its adjoining areas causing health hazard to the city dwellers and polluting the environment.

City residents complained that old and sick cattle, buffaloes, goats are being sold in the local markets without the permission of health and Sanitation Inspector of the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC). The butchers hardly observe the meatless days according to the RCC directive.

Besides, a large quantity of sick animals are also put up for sale in most unhygienic and dirty condition along the roads and bus stands of the city at exorbitant rates.

Local people urged the RCC authorities to take stern action against those dishonest butchers.

Scarcity of pure drinking water

Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has been persisting in all nine upazilas of the district.

It is learnt, most of the tubewells have gone out of order due to continuous drought.

About 50 per cent tubewells in all the upazilas of the district lying inoperative.

Meanwhile, water-borne diseases like dysentery and other intestinal disorders have been spreading in different parts of the district due to acute scarcity of pure drinking water.

Lack of drainage facilities

Lack of proper drainage facilities in the city have been causing untold suffering to the dwellers.

Most of the drains are filled with garbage and stagnant water.

The inhabitants of Beldarpara, Horagram, Sasthito, Malopara and Panchabati areas are the worst sufferers for want of proper drainage system. Even after slight rainfall, the vast area of the city goes under water.

Many drains have turned into ideal breeding centres of mosquitoes due to cracks and filths in the old pucca drains.

Local people urged the RCC authorities to take immediate steps to renovate the kuncha drains as early as possible.

Loadshedding hampers production

Loadshedding has been hampering industrial and agricultural production in 16 Northern districts.

The districts are: Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Pabna, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Sirajganj, Thakurgaon, Bogra, Panchagarh and Joypurhat.

According to Power Development Board (PDB) sources, out of daily requirement over 300 megawatts in the northern region while 200 megawatts power being supplied from different power stations.

4 killed, 2 hurt in incidents

JAMALPUR, May 12: Four persons were killed and two others injured in separate incidents in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts recently, reports BSS.

One Montaj Ali (25) of Melandah Upazila was killed in a clash with a rival group. Sadar Upazila police recovered a beheaded body of a young woman aged about 25 from a field at village Chak Beltail in Ranagachha union. The body was sent to hospital for post-mortem.

One person was killed and two others were injured when a truck ran them over on Tinani Bridge under Jheelnagati Upazila in Sherpur recently.

Police said Hossain Ali of village Malijhee Kanda was killed on the spot and Rezaur of village Hatibandha and Abdur Razzak of Zulgaon were seriously injured in the accident. Police arrested the driver and helper of the truck.

One Alam (22), a student of Sherpur College was run over by a truck in the town recently.

In connection with these incidents, cases have been registered with respective police stations.

Beggars for minimum alms rate at Tk one

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, May 12: 'No more paise ten, we want Taka one' was the slogan of baggers in a conference held at Gobindaganj High School ground recently.

The speakers at the conference pointed out that the relief materials including Petra, Jakat, clothes, dates and meats received from abroad on different occasions are not distributed among the beggars properly.

They also placed a seven-point memorandum demanding free medicare. The beggars in the conference raised slogans demanding one Taka as alms instead of paise ten only.

The conference was presided over by a local social worker, Rehanul Hoq. Addressed among others by Mamunur Rashid, Subir Sa-ker, Bishnu Nandi, Shamsul Hoq and Rabul Kabir.

Later a 15-member convening committee was formed

with Sarker Subir Kumar Bhanu as convener.

Another report adds: District Land Administration, Gaibandha realised Taka 18.18 lakh as land revenue during this current fiscal year.

Out of total Taka 7.94 lakh was realised as current land revenue and remaining Taka 10.23 lakh as arrear taxes.

During the period, the department also realised Taka 55,241 taxes from miscellaneous items.

It may be mentioned here that this year a target of land revenue was fixed at Taka one crore 34 lakh 49 thousand 924.

A meeting of Bangladesh Chaitra Union (BCU), district unit, was held at the local Government College Shaheed Minar premises here recently.

A large number of workers and supporters attended the meeting.

Jamaat criticises govt policy on Golam Azam

DINAJPUR, May 12: Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mattur Rahman Nizami on Sunday said only an individual who commits any crime actively participating in war can be called a war criminal, reports UNB.

There is no precedence in world history of branding any political leader as war criminal, who did not take active part in the war," he told a public meeting at the Dinajpur Institute.

Nizami, leader of Jamaat Parliametary Group, questioned the wisdom of the "so-called" People's Court of orchestrating a "public trial" of Jamaat leader Golam Azam on the pretext of upholding the spirit of liberation war.

Without naming, he said a major political party had supported the "so-called people's court for gaining its own political interest.

This party, which could play a vital role in finding out solutions to the burning issues facing the country, including the Rohingya refugees, Nizami alleged, was more interested in chaos rather than resolving the problems.

The Jamaat leader accused the government of pursuing a policy of appeasement on Golam Azam issue by ignoring peace in the political area.

Nizami demanded unconditional release of Golam Azam, failing which, he warned that Jamaat would soon launch an action programme.

Presided over by District Jamaat Ameer Aftab Uddin Mollah the meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof

Mufizur Rahman, Principal Shah Ruhul Islam and Abdullahi Bak.

Three housewives committed suicide in the district, police said on Monday.

Ireen (16) wife of Rafiqul Islam of Lekhat in Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself while Protima Bala wife of Anil Chandra of Rajarampur in Birol Upazila took her life by taking poison on the same day recently.

Both of them committed suicide reportedly over family feuds.

In another incident, the second wife of Habibur Rahman, Union parishad member at Chirribandar Upazila took her life over differences with her husband.

The first wife of the said member had also committed suicide earlier, local people said.

Three separate cases were filed with the police.

Dacoits kill minor girl

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, May 12: Dacoits brutally murdered a minor girl while committing dacoity at Katarah in Machole upazila recently, police said, reports UNB.

The armed dacoits at dead of night broke open the door of the house of Aesuddin of the village and he headed Manwara (9), daughter of the house-owner when she raised alarm. The dacoits later decamped with the booty.

177 pry school teachers not getting salary

FENI, May 12: A total of 177 primary school teachers of five upazilas of the district have not been getting their salary for the last one year, reports UNB.

Of the total, 38 teachers in Sonaganj, 13 teachers in Poursuram and 42 each in Sadar, Chhagalniya and Dagonbhuian have been facing great hardships for non payment of their salary.

Meanwhile, the government transferred accounts of 7,985 teachers from development head to revenue head on March last which is said to be main reason for the undue delay in payment.

The suffering teachers of the district have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to disburse their salary without further delay.

A man was awarded 10 years imprisonment for keeping illegal arms, court sources said here today.

Belal Hossain was also fined Taka 10,000 or in default to suffer there more months of imprisonment.

Sub-Judge Abdur Rashid Miah awarded the punishment in a judgement delivered re-

cently.

Chhagalniya police arrested the accused in June 1990 for keeping a country made gun and ammunition.

Three separate fire incidents in Feni and Noakhali districts recently damaged property worth lakhs of Taka, according to delayed reports.